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Newspaper Articles

Marshall M. Reddish, Asst. Superintendent
Denver Mint

Mint Official Gets Leave of Absence

Marshall M. Reddish Tuesday afternoon was given a leave of absence as assistant superintendent of the Denver U.S. Mint pending an appeal of a surprise unexplained transfer to Philadelphia.

Miss Eva Adams, U.S. Mint director in Washington, informed Reddish his request for leave was granted pending a hearing on his reassignment to Philadelphia.

Reddish, assistant superintendent of the Mint here for 20 years and a Denver Mint employe 31 years, was informed by letter Saturday that he was to be transferred effective Aug. 22 to the Philadelphia Mint.

His new assignment was to be assistant superintendent (general), according to Miss Adams' transfer orders. Neither Reddish nor other Mint officers have ever heard of such a title before.

Leaders Puzzled

The transfer order, made without previous announcement or notice—even to Reddish—has left community leaders here puzzled.

Unanswered are these questions:

- What is the job of assistant superintendent (general)? Reddish said even inquiries by himself and his attorney, Bernard Engler, as to definition, job classification or description have remained unanswered by Miss Adams.

- Why was there no prior interview or notice given to Reddish before ordering the transfer. Miss Adams said she wants him at the Philadelphia Mint because of problems there. Miss Adams



Reddish

has never explained the problems. Reddish doesn't know what they are or even if he can handle them.

- Mrs. Fern Miller of Platteville, a political appointee as superintendent of the Denver Mint, said she knows nothing of the transfer directive. She said she had nothing to do with it.

There never has been in the history of the Denver Mint a transfer of an employe either without foreknowledge or without his approval.

Stunned and discouraged by the terse transfer order, Reddish at first was going to quit or retire. His 31 years' continuous government service includes three years as a Navy lieutenant in the South Pacific during World War II.

'Kick in Kidneys'

"When I first read the letter, I felt like I had got kicked in the kidneys," Reddish said. "But, after word got around about the order, and so many friends started asking me about it and offering support, I decided I wanted to do something."

It is understood many inquiries are being made by individuals and groups to federal officials and congressional representatives in Washington,

wanting to know the "why" of the transfer.

The tall, lanky, (6-feet, 4-inch) Reddish is a popular leader in many civic, service and veterans clubs here. As department commander of the American Legion, Reddish was one of the civic lead-

ers who brought the national Legion convention here. He serves on many boards and committees of other service clubs.

A native of Trinidad, Reddish, doubts if he can take the Philadelphia climate.

"The only other time I've been there was to serve on treasury auditing commissions, the same as I've done at Ft. Knox," Reddish reflected. "The weather there is like a laundry—in winter, it's like a cold laundry. . ."

Explain All the Moves

By ROBERT L. CHASE

I FIND IT interesting that every time Uncle Sam sets out to do something new about coining money he looks to Denver.

On the basis that the Denver Mint is the World's biggest and most efficient coin factory, this makes sense.

At the same time, it raises the question of why cut into the Denver Mint—which is doing a bangup job — to move elsewhere?

At present, there are these developments:

- An order for transfer of Marshall Reddish, for 20 years assistant superintendent of the Denver Mint, to Philadelphia to set up the new operation. Reddish, who has long been a fixture in Denver, doesn't want to move and the order is now under review.



Chase

- **TRANSFER OF** four coin stamping presses—out of some 70 at the Denver Mint—to San Francisco, apparently for a resumption of coin stamping operations in that city.

- Transfer of two electricians from Denver to San Francisco to wire the machines and get them ready for operation.

- Reports of the probability that five or more technicians will be sent to San Francisco from here when the coinage operations get started.

Reddish, as the ranking civil service employe at the Mint, is the top career man in the plant. The superintendent, Mrs. Fern Miller, is a political appointee and would presumably be changed with any change in Administration in Washington.

THERE HAS BEEN widespread protest over the transfer of Reddish—without at least an explanation to Denver—to another operation.

The whole business has been bubbling for months, ever since a national coin shortage developed.

The San Francisco Mint had been closed about 10 years ago, except for the stamping of some blanks. This left only the Denver Mint and the Philadelphia Mint to produce coins.

A new Mint on the site in Philadelphia where the original Mint had been located at Independence Square was proposed.

It sounded like a good idea, but the question was raised here as to why it would be necessary to wait for building a new mint in Philadelphia—where the old one was hemmed in and not susceptible of expansion—when ground already was owned at the mint here for doubling the capacity.

AFTER CONSIDERABLE argument and debate, two Denver plant extensions were made — one of them in the old Tramway power sub-station—to meet an immediate need.

There still appears to be need for more production.

What bugs me is why it should be necessary to chip away at the Denver operation to accomplish this?

Why shouldn't the Denver Mint—admittedly a highly efficient operation and with a good labor reserve—go ahead at top speed while whatever other expansions are needed are carried out?

I'd like, for instance, to hear why it is better to send Denver machinery to San Francisco than to get new machines—unless the Denver operation is being under-

Mint Aide Gets Order To Move

Marshall M. Reddish, who for 27 years has been assistant superintendent of the Denver Mint and who helped convert it into a 24-hour operation, has been transferred to the Philadelphia Mint effective Aug. 22, he said Monday.

Reddish, 727 Pearl St., said he plans to seek reconsideration of the transfer order. He is to be assistant superintendent (general) at the Philadelphia Mint.

In Washington, Miss Eva Adams, Mint director, said:

"It is proper, normal and regular procedure for the Mint to transfer people when other institutions need help.

"Mr. Reddish has just returned from a three-month vacation (Reddish said he was on three-month sick leave while he was away, his duties were assumed by others at the Denver Mint.

"In view of the need in Philadelphia, we are asking him to transfer."

She said key personnel arrangements are made from Washington.

STARTED IN 1934

Reddish, 59, started at the Denver Mint as a clerk in the accounting division in 1934. In 1938, he became chief clerk and assistant superintendent.

Reddish said he was away from work from mid-April to mid-July because of health reasons. When he returned July 19, he was placed on administrative leave, he said.

Reddish said he had been directed to report for work Monday in Denver.

Although the U.S. Treasury Department has declined to issue individual figures for each mint, production at both facilities have doubled during the past year.

The Denver Mint produces about 70 per cent of the coins.

Mint Official Fears He'll Have to Quit

By WILLIAM MARVEL

Rocky Mountain News Federal Reporter

Marshall M. Reddish, assistant superintendent of the Denver U.S. Mint, said Monday he will be forced to quit if Miss Eva Adams, U.S. Mint director in Washington, sticks by her decision to transfer him to the Philadelphia Mint.

Reddish said Sunday he has received a letter ordering him to report to the Philadelphia Mint Aug. 22. The letter said Reddish would assume the post of "assistant superintendent (general)" at the Philadelphia facility.

Reddish says he has wired Miss Adams asking for a reconsideration of the transfer.

Assistant superintendent at the Denver Mint for 20 years, Reddish returned to his post Monday after three months' absence. He says he had been sick for several months and finally was able to go back to work July 19.

But on his return, he says, he was ordered to report to Fitzsimons General Hospital for a complete physical checkup. Reddish said the checkup failed to reveal anything wrong with him.

However, he claimed the climate of Philadelphia would be bad for his health if he was forced to transfer.

"I can't live in that climate, particularly in winter time. I

would have to retire if I was forced to take that job," he said.

Reddish added that he has been unable to find out what his duties would be in the new job. "There doesn't seem to be any line of authority," he complained. Reddish said he believes a "bogus job" was created just to get him out of Denver.

"This puts me in a position," he said, "of having to go back to a climate that's bad for me to a job I don't know anything about."

Reddish said his difficulties with the Mint director may stem from "a couple of years ago when I took a very strong stand on preserving—and even enlarging and modernizing—the Denver Mint."

The assistant director added that he has informed the Colorado delegation in Congress and that some of them have agreed to help.

"I have friends that are interceding for me," he said.

Denver Mint Official Cites Poor Health

Marshall M. Reddish, assistant superintendent of the Denver Mint, disclosed Thursday he will be compelled to retire if Mint officials in Washington insist upon his transfer to Philadelphia.

Because of a respiratory impairment, his health would be affected if he transferred to the lower altitude, he said. The impairment does not affect his health in Denver's higher altitude where he has lived his adult life.

Reddish made his retirement plans known in a telegram to

Reddish

Miss Eva Adams, U.S. Mint director, in a last appeal to reconsider his transfer.

Without notice or prior consultation, Reddish was notified by letter from Miss Adams Aug. 1 that he had been reassigned to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, effective Aug. 22.

New Assignment

He was informed his new assignment was to be assistant superintendent (general), a post he has never heard of in 31 years service in the Denver Mint.

He had been off work nearly three months because of illness, but had returned to duty July 19 after a two weeks' medical examination at Fitzsimons Army Hospital ordered by his superiors.

When Reddish's unscheduled transfer was brought to public light, strong protests were made by Mayor Currihan and civic and business leaders.

Former Colorado department commander of the American Legion, Reddish has been an active leader in Denver civic and service clubs.

On Aug. 4, Reddish was given a leave of absence by Miss Adams pending an appeal of the transfer order. Because of the lack of further word from Washington and because of advice he received from his two personal physicians, Reddish sent the following telegram to Miss Adams asking for reconsideration based on humanitarian principles:

"You now have medical evidence from my two physicians showing the adverse effects a transfer to Philadelphia would have upon my health, also full medical clearance for remaining on my job in Denver (the Fitzsimons examination).

Never Discussed

"Although the matter of my transfer was never discussed with me before your order was received, competent (federal) posi-

tion classifiers tell me that the position at Philadelphia takes me out of the chain of command and reduces me in rank in the mint organization.

"In spite of the fact that, during my 31 years with the Denver Mint, it has advanced to the largest and most efficient mint in the world.

"To avoid insubordination and

violation of an order by failing to report for duty at the Philadelphia Mint, for the record I will submit my signed application for retirement tomorrow (Friday), leaving the effective date open for your determination. However, I respectfully request my return to duty at the Denver Mint."

Born in Trinidad, Colo., Jan. 23, 1906, Reddish was reared and attended schools in Somerset, Ky., Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C.

Because of a respiratory condi-

tion, his parents returned him to Colorado at the age of 16 to resume his schooling. He received a bachelor degree in business administration and a law degree from Westminster Law School in 1938.

While going to school, he joined the Denver Mint March 1, 1934. He passed the Colorado Bar examination in 1938, first in the group.

But at that time, Reddish was promoted to chief clerk, second to the superintendent at that time,

so he chose to continue his career in the Denver Mint rather than follow law.

During World War II, he served in the Navy from 1942 to 1945 in the South Pacific, discharged as a lieutenant. When he returned to the Mint, he was promoted to assistant superintendent on Dec. 1, 1945.

When Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, former U.S. Mint director, resigned in 1953 she cited Reddish for outstanding service.

Reddish's wife, Agnes, died in April 1964. He has a son, John Reddish, living in Boulder, and a daughter, Mrs. Thomas (Kathleen) Murray of Englewood.

Transfer of Mint Official Puzzling

By ROBERT L. CHASE

I HAVE BEEN VAINLY watching Washington for several days now for a clear and lucid explanation of why Marshall Reddish is to be transferred out of Denver.

Reddish is, as you probably already know, assistant superintendent of the Denver Mint, the biggest hard money factory in the World.



Chase

He's been at the Mint 30 years and has been assistant superintendent for 27 years.

In that time the Denver money factory has made an enviable reputation for efficiency and high production.

This is a particular tribute to Reddish because, as the highest civil service official at the local Mint, he has actually run the plant during most of his tenure and has provided the continuity of operation.

* * *

HIS BOSS, the superintendent, is a political appointee—a system I have deplored on previous occasions. Certainly the Mint is not—or shouldn't be—a political activity. It is actually a major manufacturing institution with Uncle Sam's hard money as its product.

The Mint has been under terrific pressure for several years because of a coin shortage, but to the credit of our neighbor across the street it has gone steadfastly about its business and, working long hours and at high speed, has stemmed the worst of the shortages.

One of the difficulties was that the Mint in Philadelphia was hemmed into too small space and the plans for a handsome—and very expensive—new Mint there were not sufficiently advanced to help in an emergency.

On the other hand, the Denver Mint owned ground for expansion.

THERE ARE THOSE (including me) who believe Reddish may have been too eager to push the advantages of a Denver expansion to meet the coin emergency without needless delay to put him in the good graces of some of his high superiors.

At any rate, Reddish returned recently from sick leave after an illness from which he has been pronounced completely recovered. And soon thereafter was notified that he had a new job—assistant superintendent (general)—in Philadelphia beginning Aug. 22.

This is apparently a brand new title. Reddish admits he isn't familiar with the job or with what he might be expected to do in Philadelphia. He doesn't want to leave Denver.

In fact he is so confused about the orders that he asked and received a leave of absence to discuss it with Mint officials and the U.S. Civil Service.

I believe Washington owes us an explanation of why Reddish is suddenly no longer needed at the Denver operation and is vital to a newly-created job in Philadelphia.

In the absence of an explanation to the contrary, it looks very much like politics—and bad politics at that.

Is Western

By PASQUALE MARRAN

IT WAS A SLIGHT SHOCK Shuteran appeared in the office, the announcer of a rodeo.

The insurance executive and re had been known as a classy dresser and Continental in his way.

He pushed back the 10-gallon Stetson on his head and put his custom-made boots on the desk and explained.

"I have just been on a tour of some of our Western water holes," he said, "and got the impression that we are fast losing the flavor of our Western country to influences from the East and Europe, especially.

"You take Denver and Colorado. We are a tourist mecca and when the flood of tourists come here they—including their children in a Western atmosphere—cowboys do they see? What they left at home Chicago, Cleveland, Atlanta.

"I decided that I would participate in this wonderful old flavor. So I we chased me a new wardrobe of Western wear," he added.

* * *

THEN HE OPENED up the tail of his saffron jacket, fished into the embroidered silk shirt, and pulled out—a sack of Bull Durham and some

He cut half the sack on a piece of paper and most of the night-fires

Did Harriman



MARSHALL M. REDDISH, LEFT, HANDS IN RETIREMENT FORMS

Denver Post Photo by Lowell Georgia

W. A. Manning, center, Mint personnel officer, and Louis T. Monahan, assistant chief clerk, check forms. Reddish applied for retirement rather than accept pending transfer.

Mint Aide Reddish Applies For Retirement to Avoid Shift

By JUDY BRIMBERG
Denver Post Staff Writer

Marshall M. Reddish, assistant superintendent of the Denver Mint for the past 27 years, Friday applied for early retirement to avoid being shifted to Philadelphia.

In Washington, Miss Eva Adams, Mint director, said she believed he will be permitted to retire. "We have to have help at the Philadelphia Mint and we had hoped he would go there," she said.

NOTIFIED AUG. 1

Reddish, 59, of 727 Pearl St., was notified on Aug. 1 that he had been transferred to the Philadelphia Mint. He was to have taken up his new post as assistant superintendent (general) at the Philadelphia Mint Sunday.

Uncertain of whether the new assignment was a demotion, he obtained leave to study the matter. Friday, he decided to retire.

Reddish, who helped convert the Denver Mint into a 24-hour operation, said he was bewildered by the shift.

MADE REPORT

He said he believed his difficulties may have stemmed from the fact that he submitted a management report on Mint operations, prepared for the federal government, to some Denver experts.

The report, prepared by Arthur D. Little & Co. and made public on Feb. 11, 1963, suggested three solutions to boost the output of coins: Build a new mint in Philadelphia; expand the Philadelphia Mint; and

close both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints and build a new mint in a central location. The report also said that about 70 per cent of the coins turned out are used east of the Mississippi.

The Denver experts, Reddish said, pointed out that money might be saved by expanding the Denver Mint, which was done.

Miss Adams said she was "sick at heart" that Reddish felt he was being downgraded.

Reddish's transfer was protested to Colorado's congressional delegation by Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post No. 1 of the American Legion (Reddish is a past state commander); by the Knights of Columbus, Denver Council 539; and by Denver Mayor Tom Curri-gan.

for a jury trial on the insanity issue.

Mint Official Asks Time to Study Transfer

Marshall M. Reddish, assistant superintendent of the Denver Mint, said Tuesday he has asked for a few days leave to consult with an attorney and determine whether his prospective shift to the Philadelphia Mint would be a demotion.

Reddish, who has been assistant superintendent for the past 27 years, has been transferred to Philadelphia effective Aug. 22. His assignment is assistant superintendent (general).

His attorney said Reddish has not been furnished with a description of the new job and hence does not know if it will be a demotion.

He said the leave was requested to prepare an appeal if necessary.

Mint officials in Washington have termed the shift "normal and regular procedure."

Transfer of Mint Official Protested by Legion Chief

The commander of Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post No. 1, American Legion, said Thursday he has wired Colorado's

congressional delegation protesting the transfer of Marshall M. Reddish, assistant superintendent of the Denver Mint.

Reddish, assistant superintendent 27 years, has been ordered to report to the Philadelphia Mint on Aug. 22. He is to be assistant superintendent (general).

In the telegrams, Commander Ted Van Brunt said:

"Marsh is one of our distinguished past commanders and a life member of this post and is very popular. Request you do everything possible to have transfer rescinded. We need him here."

Reddish, 59, of 727 Pearl St., is on leave while consulting with an attorney regarding the transfer.

According to Mint officials in Washington, the shift is "normal and regular procedure."

EDITORIAL PAGE: SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW

THE DENVER POST

Spoils System Makes Mint Job Tough

THE TRANSFER of Marshall M. Reddish, assistant director of the Denver Mint, is hard to understand. It appears to us that Eva Adams, U.S. Mint director, either is waging a vendetta against Reddish — or she's not giving us all the facts.

Reddish has been assistant director of the Mint for 27 years. He is 59 years old. He is acknowledged as one of the foremost mint experts in the nation.

Usually, an employe with service as long as Reddish's — he began his work at the Denver Mint in 1934 — is given some consideration when he seeks to decline a transfer.

Either there is an overriding reason for wanting Reddish in Philadelphia or there is an overriding reason for not wanting him in Denver.

There appears to be a health aspect to the transfer but since neither Reddish nor Miss Adams is making much of it, one cannot properly speculate as to how Reddish's health fits into the matter.

In any case, if the Philadelphia job had a little more substance the need for a man like Reddish would be believable. A new mint is to be built in Philadelphia. Reddish describes the Philadelphia assignment as a "floating job" — one which has little authority or necessity.

Reddish's Denver job, by contrast, is clear-cut: he's assistant superintendent of the largest mint in the world. In practice, he runs the Denver Mint.

Possibly this aspect — the patronage abuse — is part of the trouble. Mint superintendencies are notoriously political. Mrs. Fern Miller, the present superintendent, is a long-time Democratic party worker. Her predecessor was a faithful Republican worker.

Even Miss Adams' job has political aspects.

As a consequence, it is the assistant superintendent who must be responsible for getting the job done even though the chair of director is filled by political appointees.

Maybe the system breeds confusion which causes difficulties such as that which has arisen over the Reddish transfer. It is worth noting that Mrs. Miller, when asked about the transfer, said: "It is a matter between the U.S. Bureau and Mr. Reddish."

IT SEEMS to us that in a proper chain of command the superintendent of an agency ought to be involved in the transfer of his chief assistant. In the case of the Mint, however, it's perfectly believable that Mrs. Miller isn't involved.

We can't help wondering, also, if Reddish's frank opposition to Miss Adams' attempt to downgrade the Denver Mint early in 1964 had something to do with the transfer.

All in all, we think Congress ought to find out what is going on inside the Bureau of the Mint. If the time has come to end the tangle of patronage which impedes the advancement and job security of career service people, we think most Americans would applaud such action as progress long overdue.

Newspaper Articles

Marshall M. Redlich, Asst. Superintendent,
Denver Mint

